

#### **4VAC15-110-80**

#### **Game: Fox: Part IV: Miscellaneous.**

##### **Summary:**

The proposal is to add a damage or threat to human health or safety requirement to the current provision that allows landowners to kill or have killed gray foxes on their own land at any time.

##### **Proposed language of amendment:**

##### **4VAC15-110-80. Killing by landowner.**

A landowner may kill or have killed red foxes at any time on his or her own land. Provided further that a landowner may kill or have killed gray foxes at any time on his or her own land, but only when they are causing damage to crops or property, or are posing a threat to human health or safety.

##### **Rationale:**

Population trend information for gray foxes suggests that populations have been slowly declining for the past 20 years. In areas where populations are currently at low levels, harvest by humans may be suppressing population growth or contributing towards further declines. The regulation as it currently exists provides a continuous open season for hunting and trapping both red and gray foxes on private lands, with no requirement of damage or a human health/safety issue. This proposal will reduce the number of gray foxes killed outside of the hunting season when no damage or human health issues exist. Compared to red foxes, gray foxes are involved in relatively few agricultural damage or nuisance issues. The current provision that allows landowners to kill or have killed red foxes will remain unchanged.